GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2328
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2017
Import of Minerals
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.;Nayak Shri B.V.

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

a) whether there has been a surge in import of minerals recently;
(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the imports made during the last three years, mineral-wise;
(c) the reasons for resorting to imports when indigenous capacity is available in the country; and
(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase mining of these minerals in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): The mining sector has been liberalized and is dominated by large number of private sector miners. Many minerals are imported for further processing and re-export. Some Minerals like diamond and other precious & semi-precious stones, rock phosphate, sulphur, L.D. grade limestone, copper ore & concentrate, fluorspar etc. are not sufficient in resources. Therefore, these are being imported to meet the domestic demand.
The value of minerals (coming under the purview of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017) imported during the year 2013-14 to 2015-16 is at Annexure.
(d): To strengthen domestic supply chain of minerals, FDI up to 100% is allowed in exploration, mining, minerals processing and metallurgy under the automatic route for all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals including diamonds and precious stones. Further, the Government has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 which inter-alia provides following provisions to boost the mineral sector:
(i) grant of mineral concessions through auction by competitive bidding;
(ii) transition provisions for extension of existing leases to obviate disruptions in supply of ore and to ensure regular supply of raw material to the industry;
(iii) allowing easy transferability of mineral concessions granted through auction, which would facilitate investments into the mining sector; and
(iv) establishment of National Mineral Exploration Trust for regional and detailed exploration;
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